



November 2021 Newsletter

Well, it sure seems like Winter is upon us! I hope everyone had a safe and happy Halloween. The month of October was a ton of fun - we had our Pumpkin/Harvest Festival on the 21st and our Halloween celebrations on the 28th and 29th. Thank you for the amazing participation! We had so many pumpkins brought to school, pictures sent in via email of all the great flowers, fruit and vegetables you all grew, and the costumes on Thursday and Friday of last week were amazing!

The month of November is also going to have a number of important things coming up. We have parent teacher interviews on the 4th with report cards coming out later on in the month (November 26th). We are also continuing with mini-volleyball for the grade 5/6's and hope to get started on our outdoor rink soon!

By now you have probably heard about some changes to our division's Covid protocols. By January 4, 2022, all **staff members** must either have two doses of the vaccine or they can provide proof of a negative Covid test every Sunday and Wednesday. This rule does not apply to students or parents who are entering the building to discuss their child's education (for example, in-person parent teacher interviews). It does, however, apply to volunteers in the school. While this entire Covid situation is not ideal for anyone, we are determined to continue to make Sunnyside an amazing place to learn and grow! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about this.

I hope that you have seen some of the pictures that we have been putting up on Facebook and Twitter. Our School Council has been busy helping create additional learning opportunities for your children. We had rocks and boulders donated by Lafarge, and Alan Pavan from Lethbridge Landscape Supply donated his time to set them up into two separate outdoor learning spaces! We also have an amazing new bulletin board up complete with portrait photos of your children. Micah Pavan took the photos and edited them, and the Sunnyside Community Association paid for two photos - one for the school and one to send home. Those will be coming home sometime this month. The Community Association also paid for Halloween snacks for all the students last week! We are so thankful for all the support from all our parents - it really makes this school special.

It really has been an amazing few months. There are so many amazing things going on at this school - I'm humbled by the incredible work of staff, parents, and students who work together to help make Sunnyside a terrific place for kids. I also really appreciate how everyone has welcomed me into this community with open arms!

As always, I want to remind you that I am just a phone call or email away. If you need anything, or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. I LOVE working together with parents to ensure their children have success at school. Have a great month of November!

Mitchell Van Dyk



November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	2	3 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45 Parent Council Meeting @ 3:40pm	4 Parent / Teacher Conferences	5 Kernels Popcorn Fundraiser Ends	6
7	8 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	9 Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony	10 Sunnyside PD Day- NO CLASSES	11 Remembrance Day- NO SCHOOL	12 NO SCHOOL	13
14	15 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	16	17 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	18	19	20
21	22 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	23	24 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	25 Kindergarten Report Cards go home	26 Gr 1-6 Report Cards go home	27
28	29 Gr 5/6 Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45	30				

Ms. Pascal-Kindergarten News

It was an exciting month in our classroom! We have been working on being able to recognize our classroom routines, and adjust to daily learning focuses. Our main theme this month was pumpkins. This theme guided our learning activities and allowed for us to work on growing as young learners.

We continued to start our mornings outside in nature. We are working on questioning during our morning activities. We spend time doing wonder walks and guided exploration of the world we live in. We had the opportunity to dissect pumpkins, learn about why leaves change color, and touch on bird migration. It has been amazing to experience the learning that takes place during this time outdoors.

During our early literacy time we focused on name awareness and learning our first few letters. We began working on learning proper pencil strokes and pencil grip while printing our letters. Using songs, poems, stories we worked on associating the appropriate sound with each letter learned. Our class is working on building our fine motor skills and hand stamina. We have enjoyed lots of games involving playdoh, tweezers, pom poms and more. We are also working daily on rhyming, beginning sounds and questioning.

In math we continued our sorting unit and introduced patterns. We have practiced spotting patterns in the world around us, as well as creating our own patterns. We are currently working on being able to consistently build and extend our patterns.

In social studies we are still focusing on our "I am Unique" unit. We have started to look at things that are unique to us and what that means. The students are starting to become aware of themselves and their peers. We are excited to begin our 'All About Me' poster sharing in November.

We had a wonderful time at our Halloween party and doing all our pumpkin themed activities this month. We have enjoyed our center time, sensory play, and all the exploration that comes through play.

In all it has been an extremely busy month in Kindergarten! Keep your eyes peeled on ClassDojo for the upcoming November newsletter to see what is happening in our classroom!



Mrs. Klassen- Gr. 1/2 News

It's already November and we have seen so much growth and excitement for learning in our classroom. Our students continue to build strong relationships with each other and I am amazed at the positive changes we see each and every day!

Outdoor Learning: We continue to spend lots of time outdoors, and the enthusiasm for this from kids is incredible. In the coming weeks we will continue to focus on “belonging” and what it means within a class, family, and community. On our daily walks we continue to observe nature closely, connect with friends, experience the seasons and find “sit spots” to reflect and experience nature through our senses. We have begun recording our learning/ideas in our outdoor journals, which the kids treasure already! November will bring an emphasis on storytelling within our circle...so share some great family stories with your child so they can do the same with us!

We are so grateful to be outside with the sunrise each and every day!

Language Arts: We are certainly growing as readers and writers as we explore amazing books and stories daily! As readers, we are looking closely at letter sounds, looking at all parts of the word, re-reading for meaning, and memorizing words we see a lot! Our students love reading on their own, but especially love to read beside their partners. We have almost completed our latest writing unit (Small Moment Stories), and will celebrate our successes at the end of this week!

Math: We continue to count objects and manipulate and explore numbers in many different ways. We are building a repertoire of math games, which is a huge favourite in our classroom. We are also exploring the concept of “equal” and skip counting by 2's and 5's.

STEAM: Our students have many opportunities to explore areas that interest them, whether building things, dramatic play, games, beading, magnets etc...though for many of them outdoor adventure is their preference! We are also taking time to explore the science of colour in our world.

Gratitude: A special thanks to our amazing EA, Ms. Julia! She nurtures and supports all our students with such kindness and joy. We are lucky to have her every afternoon in grade 1/2 !



Mrs. Slusar- Gr. 1/2 News

What another amazing month of wonderful weather, learning and working together as a classroom community!

This month we continued to spend the first hour each morning outside learning about the world around us. We have sung songs, had many discussions, read books, gathered natural materials and explored more areas of our playground. In particular each student has chosen a "sit spot" which is a place in nature to sit and reflect. This is a spot that we will visit often and explore throughout the entire year. We will continue to keep this outdoor schedule, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the outdoors when they arrive at school. It looks like warm jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and mitts are going to be required this month!

In Math this month both grades have continued units in number sense and patterns. They are becoming experts at extending, labeling and creating patterns as well as identifying the core and terms within the core.

The students have been adding new books to their reading bins and applying new skills they are gaining to figure out more of the printed word. I will continue to challenge them to find new and exciting reading material at or slightly above their level. In Writing workshop the students have spent the month writing "How-To" books using step by step instructions to teach others specific skills. We celebrated the completion of our unit by writing a "How To Make a Wow Butter and Grape Jelly Sandwich" and then making and eating one. Some of the students were surprised to find out that they actually enjoyed the taste of Wow butter! Our focus for November will be writing small moment narratives.

In Science the students have been spending time learning about the colour wheel and blending colours. They have also observed the environment and the changes that have occurred over the last 2 months with the changing of the seasons. We will continue to explore this throughout the entire year.

I look forward to chatting with all of you this week to discuss your child during our Parent/Teacher conferences!



Mrs. Henderson- Gr. 3/4 News

Highlights from the 3/4J Classroom

It's hard to believe another month has flown by. We certainly took advantage of the wonderful October weather to play outside. Now that the weather is changing we have been talking about dressing for the weather and the need for a pair of inside shoes. We are, after all, Weather Warriors and go outside every day - rain, sun or snow!!! 😎

Here's a quick peak at what we've been up to in class:

★ **Math:** We continue to work on number sense. We are also practising our basic addition and subtraction facts. Students should be able to recall and apply addition and related subtraction facts to 18. I would love to see students practice these skills at home. All they need are some dice and a deck of cards!

★ **LA:**

In Reading we wrapped up our unit on reading nonfiction. We also finished our third *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* read aloud. The class has really enjoyed listening to Katie's story. For those interested, there are 35 *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* Series!



In Writing, we wrapped up our "How To" writing unit. Students are slowly getting used to writing for longer periods of time as well as adding details to their work. We continue with our Word Work as well. Students are currently writing about their pet monsters! We've got some amazing creativity going on here!!

★ **Social:** We began looking into the cultures of four countries - Peru, India, Ukraine and Tunisia. Our focus right now is on "quality of life" in these countries as well as our own.

★ **Science:** We continue to work on Rocks and Minerals. This month we have focused on soil - what it's made of, properties and types of soil, and took part in a "Minerals Detective" Online workshop.

★ **Art:** Projects have included oil pastel leaf rubbings, collaboration squares, cartoon monsters, and colouring for mindfulness colouring pages.



★ **Health:** We are looking at friendship and qualities we would like to see and be as a friend. Activities include making friendship "soup", friend word searches and singing some friendship songs.

★ **Google:** All students should be able to access their Google accounts at home. If they haven't yet, please ask your child to show you how they access their Google Drive, email and Classroom.

One last thing If your child is away from school, especially if it's for several days, please contact me so we can make arrangements to have work sent home. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at jan.henderson@pallisersd.ab.ca

Thanks and have a wonderful day!

Mrs. Henderson

Mrs. Hudey- Gr 3/4 News

NOVEMBER here we come!!

We have had a fabulous month of learning. We have been busy connecting with friends and covering curriculum.

Here's what we are working on:

Language Arts- Our reading bins are full! We are enjoying new chapter books and talking about what we notice as 'reading detectives.'

We also started small guided reading groups. Everyday for 30 minutes all students in Gr. ¾ have the opportunity to work and read in small groups with a teacher. We are reading excellent books and having fantastic discussions! In Writers Workshop we are writing descriptive sentences and building paragraphs. Students are brainstorming, writing, editing and sharing their work.

Science - Students have been learning about Rocks and Minerals, we will be finishing the unit soon.

Social Studies- Students are developing their compare and contrast skills with different communities around the world. Throughout this term we will learn about Peru, Ukraine, India and Tunisia.

Math - We have been busy this month in math! Students have been working with number expressions this term. (Grade 3- up to 1000, Grade 4- up to 10,000)
Place value, rounding, regrouping, addition and subtraction facts and problem solving.

Just a reminder that Parent teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, **Nov 4, 2021** To book a time, please log-in and book your appointment.

- ★ If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Sunnyside School - 403-327-9214
Email: lynnell.hudey@pallisersd.ab.ca



Mrs. Jesse- Gr 5/6 News

As we transition into November the 5/6 class has settled pretty successfully into classroom routines. We are still working on bringing water bottles and masks on a consistent basis and using our break times to keep our bottles filled. I will continue to encourage students to bring these with them to school each day. As the weather grows colder, I also encourage parents to ensure students are coming dressed appropriately for the weather. We continue the tradition of being Winter Warriors here at Sunnyside and continue to go outside at recess times.

In Math, we are about halfway through our Patterns and Algebra unit, where students are encouraged to notice and extend patterns using pictures, numbers and variables. Students are using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to extend their understanding of patterns and learning various methods to help them complete these calculations in their heads. It would benefit all students to be working on skip counting and multiplication facts at home for short amounts of time each evening (even in the car on route to activities).

In LA, we have extended our reading time to 30-35 minutes each day, and students are focusing on characterization with this reading unit. Students are identifying characteristics of the main characters in their novels and noting evidence to support their thinking. They are monitoring how their characters change in various situations and how they tackle obstacles. Finally, students are tracking their character's motivations and looking at the impact of their thinking on their character's actions. In writing, students are writing personal narratives and we are focusing on narrative techniques to make their writing stronger. We are elaboration on details in regards to setting, character and plot to ensure our readers can visualize our stories.

In Social, we are finishing up our mapping unit, with a short assessment to follow next week. Students will be responsible for knowing all the components of a map and be expected to read maps accurately. We will be moving onto the regions of Canada in our next unit.

In Science, we are finishing up our first unit, which is wetlands. Students will finish off their lessons this week and start with their unit review at the end of this week.

Finally, in art students have completed two fall art projects, which again turned out beautifully. Here is a quick picture of their projects (we are missing a few, but they are almost done and will join the pack).



Upcoming Important Dates:

Nov. 4th - Parent Teacher Interviews, Nov. 10-12 - No school